country, receiving tributaries of different sizes, until itself is a considerable river, before it reaches its silvery recipient, the Delaware. It is in all its ways, as well as at the Gap, where it rolls majestically over a rippled bed, and reflecting a sombre shade of the impending mountains, a grand stream.

To return to the Gap. The eastern bank is bordered for the distance of about a mile by craggy cliffs, towering to an amazing height, and of forms the most bizarre. Between which wall of rocks and the river the road winds along. Hastening to leave these black abodes, which seem to afford shelter to none but the ravenous beasts of the forest, the Lehigh appears eagerly moving on towards the fertile low lands, which succeed in view, on the eastern bank.

Ascending the eastern height, the traveler is amply rewarded for the exertion of climbing from rock to rock, in scaling the pine-covered side of the mountain, by the rich and extensive prospect which the eye then commands. At his feet roll the waters of the majestic stream—on the opposite side is a towering ridge, near the summit of which appears, right opposite, emerging from the surrounding woods, a lonely pile of rocks, whimsically called, "Die Teufel’s Kanzel," i.e., "The Devil’s Pulpit," which indignantly suffers but a few blasted pines to shade its sullen brow. At a distance an extensive country, variegated with woods and farms, watered by the meandering Lehigh, and ridge retreating behind ridge, till lost in the faint tints of the horizon, all bursts upon the sight, and fill the mind with sublime ideas of the greatness of the Creator. The shattered rocks, thrown together in wild confusion, and the strata of rounded stones, which are to be met with in passing through the Gap, have given rise to the supposition that the Lehigh, being obstructed in its course by the Blue Mountain, was formerly dammed up into a lake, which at length bursting the barrier, formed the chasm now called the Lehigh Gap. The learned have not agreed, as yet, in the decision of this mooted point.

Additional early descriptions of these gaps and weird explanations of their origin are briefly mentioned in the Bibliography chapter.

To account for the origin of water gaps it is not necessary to assume that Lake Ontario or some other lake once extended to Blue Mountain and suddenly burst the barrier, as dams collapse under abnormal water pressure; nor to assume the breaking of a mountain ridge by a great earthquake or the formation of the gap at the time of Creation. With the modern conception of geologic time measured by hundreds of millions of years rather than by hundreds or thousands, we realize the great effects produced by slowly acting but long continued natural forces.

The water gaps of the Delaware and Lehigh rivers are solely the work of the rivers themselves. At the Delaware Water Gap there are grooves, scratches and polished surfaces on the rock walls made by the glacial ice which passed through the gap, but it is improbable that any erosion of consequence resulted from ice abrasion. The rivers at one time flowed across the ridge of hard Shawangunk sandstones and conglomerates at the level of the crest of the mountain or even above the present level. Although these rock strata are very hard, the rolling of cobbles and sand over them by the rivers has cut the notches as by a file. In the case of the Delaware River these cutting tools form great gravel deposits that extend down the river valley to